

What is claimed is:

1 1. A machine readable medium containing configuration instructions for performing
2 a method on a user machine, the method comprising the steps of:
3 displaying a graphical display element representing a graphical image;
4 detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element;
5 responsive to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display
6 element, displaying a preview of the graphical image including at least a partial image of
7 the graphical image;
8 detecting a final selection of the graphical display element; and
9 responsive to detecting the final selection of the graphical display element,
10 displaying the graphical image.

1 2. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of
2 displaying a preview of the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a
3 thumbnail of the corresponding graphical image.

1 3. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 2, wherein the method further
2 comprises the step of preparing a thumbnail of the corresponding graphical image.

1 4. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of
2 displaying a preview of the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a
3 portion of the corresponding graphical image.

1 5. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the graphical image
2 is a web page.

1 6. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the graphical
2 display element is a representation of a tab.

1 7. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method further
2 comprises, in response to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display
3 element, displaying a textual indication of the content of the graphical image.

1 8. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user machine
2 comprises a graphical pointing device, and the preliminary selection of the graphical
3 display element comprises placement of a pointer of the graphical pointing device over
4 the graphical display element.

1 9. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user machine
2 comprises a graphical pointing device, and the final selection of the graphical display
3 element comprises depressing a button of the graphical pointing device while a pointer of
4 the graphical pointing device is over the graphical display element.

1 10. A method of configuring a client machine connected to a network, the method
2 comprising transmitting configuration instructions through the network to the client
3 machine for performing a method of displaying a plurality of graphical images, the
4 method of displaying comprising the steps of:

5 displaying a graphical display element representing a graphical image;
6 detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element;

7 responsive to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display
8 element, displaying a preview of the graphical image including at least a partial image of
9 the graphical image;
10 detecting a final selection of the graphical display element; and
11 responsive to detecting the final selection of the graphical display element,
12 displaying the graphical image.

1 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of displaying a preview of
2 the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a thumbnail of the
3 corresponding graphical image.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of preparing a
2 thumbnail of the corresponding graphical image.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of displaying a preview of
2 the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a portion of the corresponding
3 graphical image.

1 14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the graphical image is a web page.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the graphical display element is a
2 representation of a tab.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising, in response to detecting
2 the preliminary selection of the graphical display element, displaying a textual indication
3 of the content of the graphical image.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the client machine comprises a
2 graphical pointing device, and the preliminary selection of the graphical display element
3 comprises placement of a pointer of the graphical pointing device over the graphical
4 display element.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the client machine comprises a
2 graphical pointing device, and the final selection of the graphical display element
3 comprises depressing a button of the graphical pointing device while a pointer of the
4 graphical pointing device is over the graphical display element.

1 19. A method of displaying a plurality of graphical images on a computer display,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 displaying a graphical display element representing a graphical image;
4 detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element; and
5 responsive to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display
6 element, displaying a preview of the graphical image including at least a partial image of
7 the graphical image.

8 20. The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
9 detecting a final selection of the graphical display element; and
10 responsive to detecting the final selection of the graphical display element,
11 displaying the graphical image.

1 21. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of displaying a preview of
2 the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a thumbnail of the
3 corresponding graphical image.

1 22. The method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the step of preparing a
2 thumbnail of the corresponding graphical image.

1 23. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of displaying a preview of
2 the corresponding graphical image comprises displaying a portion of the corresponding
3 graphical image.

1 24. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the graphical image is a web page.

1 25. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the graphical display element is a
2 representation of a tab.

1 26. The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising, in response to detecting
2 the preliminary selection of the graphical display element, displaying a textual indication
3 of the content of the graphical image.

1 27. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the preliminary selection of the
2 graphical display element comprises placement of a pointer of a graphical pointing device
3 over the graphical display element.

1 28. The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the final selection of the graphical
2 display element comprises depressing a button of a graphical pointing device while a
3 pointer of the graphical pointing device is over the graphical display element.

1 29. A method for displaying a plurality of graphical images using a computer having
2 a graphical pointing device, comprising the steps of:

3 displaying a first graphical image;

4 displaying a graphical display element corresponding to a second
5 graphical image;

6 detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element
7 corresponding to a second graphical image;

8 responsive to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display
9 element corresponding to a second graphical image, displaying a preview of the second
10 graphical image including at least a partial image of the second graphical image.

11 30. The method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

12 detecting a final selection of the graphical display element corresponding
13 to the second graphical image; and

14 responsive to the final detecting selection of the graphical display element,
15 ceasing display of the first graphical image and displaying the second graphical image.

1 31. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

2 displaying a graphical display element corresponding to the first graphical
3 image;

4 detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element
5 corresponding to a first graphical image;

responsive to detecting the preliminary selection of the graphical display element corresponding to a first graphical image, displaying a preview of the first graphical image including at least a partial image of the first graphical image;

detecting a final selection of the graphical display element corresponding to the first graphical image; and

responsive to detecting the final selection of the graphical display element corresponding to the first graphical image, ceasing display of the second graphical image and displaying the first graphical image in the display.

32. A machine readable medium containing configuration instructions for performing a method of displaying a web page in a client connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving a first web page from the network;

displaying a graphical display element representing the first web page;

detecting a preliminary selection of the graphical display element;

responsive to the preliminary selection of the graphical display element, displaying a preview of the first web page including at least a partial image of the first web page;

detecting a final selection of the graphical display element; and

responsive to detecting the final selection of the graphical display element, displaying the first web page.

33. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the preliminary selection of the graphical display element comprises a cursor of a pointing device moving over the graphical display element.

1 34. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the preliminary
2 selection of the graphical display element comprises a cursor of a pointing device pausing
3 over the graphical display element.

1 35. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the method
2 further comprises the step of retrieving and displaying a second web page, and wherein
3 the step of displaying the first web page includes replacing the second web page with the
4 first web page.

1 36. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 10, wherein the final selection
2 of the graphical display element comprises an actuation of a button while a cursor of a
3 pointing device is over the graphical display element.

1 37. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the method
2 further comprises the steps of receiving configuration instructions from a user, and
3 configuring the preview according to the instructions.

1 38. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the at least partial
2 image of the first web page is a cropped image of the web page.

1 39. The machine readable medium as claimed in claim 32, wherein the at least partial
2 image of the first web page is a thumbnail image of the web page.

1